

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee
February 25, 2010

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Nebraska Retirement Systems met at 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2010, in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Dave Pankonin, Chairperson; Jeremy Nordquist, Vice Chairperson; Lavon Heidemann; LeRoy Louden; and Heath Mello. Senators absent: Russ Karpisek.

SENATOR PANKONIN: Good morning, everyone. I'm Dave Pankonin from District 2. We're here for a confirmation hearing for Judge Randall Rehmeier to fill a post. He's been appointed by the Governor to fill the remainder of Judge Camerer's term on the Public Employees Retirement Board, and I'll have our committee introduce themselves to you to everyone here present. We'll start with Senator Louden. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Senator Louden from District 49, northwest Nebraska.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Senator Heidemann, District 1, southeast Nebraska.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MELLO: Senator Heath Mello, District 5, south Omaha and Bellevue.
[CONFIRMATION]

KATE ALLEN: Kate Allen, legal counsel for the Retirement Committee.
[CONFIRMATION]

DENISE LEONARD: I'm Denise Leonard. I'm committee clerk. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Thank you. After Judge Rehmeier has been interviewed, I'll ask for anyone who wishes to testify as a supporter, opponent, or a neutral position to please come forward after that. Judge Rehmeier, go ahead and come forward and tell us a little bit about your background and interest in this position. I also want to note that Senator Nordquist is joining us. [CONFIRMATION]

RANDALL REHMEIER: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Randall Rehmeier, and I'm a district court judge and I live in Nebraska City. And I'm part of the second judicial district which is composed of Otoe, Cass, and Sarpy Counties. Sometimes when attorneys appear in front of me, I remind them about the Gettysburg Address, that it was 232 words in length. And so I...it's one of those things when you start talking about yourself, you don't want to underdo it. At the same time, you don't want to overexpose yourself, so to speak. But I'll give you a little bit about my background and, hopefully, it won't be too little; hopefully, it won't be too much, and certainly, I'll try to field any questions that you might have. I grew up on a farm near

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee
February 25, 2010

Weeping Water in Cass County, Senator Pankonin's district, and graduated from high school at Weeping Water. I went to the University of Nebraska, obtained a bachelor of science degree in business administration and then went directly into law school, and obtained my juris doctorate degree in 1972. After that, I was engaged in private practice and also served as county attorney in Otoe County for approximately 15 years, and then in 1987 I went on to the county court bench. I was there for three years and then was appointed to the district court bench, and so I've been hunkered in there for the last roughly 20 years. I've been on the bench for a total of approximately 23 years. I've served in different capacities. I was the...some people refer to as president, but was the chairman, actually, of the young lawyers here in the state of Nebraska. I was on the House of Delegates which was the governing body of the bar association. I have been the president of the local bar association in Otoe County's second judicial district. As a district judge, have been the president of the District Judges Association. I was chairman for two years of the Ethics Advisory Committee of the state which gives advisory opinions to all of the judges on ethical issues that they have, and that was a commitment of six years being on that committee. I've also been involved in our Education Committees, and was the head of the orientation committee for the district judges for approximately ten years. I've probably been involved in orientation or assisting in the training of probably about half of the district court judges that are currently on the bench. Most recently, I have for the last, about four years been the chairman of the District Judges Association's committee involving the salary and pensions, so I've been working with that. I've worked with Judge Camerer quite a bit in the past. I've known him since I was on the county court bench, and he's been a good friend of mine through the years, and, of course, that's who, unfortunately, I'm here to replace due to his medical issues that he has. So that's kind of a nutshell as far as who I am background wise. On a personal level, I'm married. My wife's name is Candace. She and I have been married for a little bit over 37 years. We have two children, Adam and Emily. Adam is in the movie area, production, lives out in California. And our daughter and her husband live in Elkhorn and she is an occupational therapist. He's in the banking world, and we have two grandchildren by them, and we spend a lot of time with them. So that's a little bit about the background. As far as the committee itself or being on the board, you know, it's a little bit probably like being a senator or being a judge. You don't really train for that job. You know, I think with my background, I did have the...you know, a bachelor's degree in business, so I've got a little bit of understanding about money and finance and economics, and at least I'm familiar with the terms, we can say. And I've worked on the committee the last four or five years been the chairman of the Retirement Committee for the district judges. So I've worked, and in fact, last year appeared in front of this particular committee and gave testimony with regard to a bill that we had. So you don't particularly train for the job, but I feel that it's something I have an interest in, and that I would give all my effort to it. I would, just in closing with my initial remarks, just tell you that we do appreciate the district judges, the county judges, all the judges have appreciated the Retirement Committee and how it's worked with us in the past to resolve some of the issues that we've had, and I know Senator

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee
February 25, 2010

Pankonin, in particular, Senator Heidemann were very much involved last year in brokering a deal which we appreciated that involvement very much. So, Senator Pankonin. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Thank you, Judge Rehmeier. Are there any questions? Seeing none, I think you're going to get off very easy (laughter). But we're going to have to...so we'll let you go and, by the way, I just want a personal note, tell everyone that I appreciate Judge Rehmeier taking on this task and position, and from my personal experience with his work ethic and interest and overall ability, he'll be fine on the...on this group and do a great job for us, so we appreciate your willingness to serve. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

RANDALL REHMEIER: Did I stay under 232 words? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: I think so, pretty close. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

RANDALL REHMEIER: Okay, all right. Thank you very much, appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: We will ask if there are any supporters that wish to testify. Chief, welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much, Senator Pankonin. I am Mike Heavican, the Chief Justice, and I don't need to take up a lot of your time, but we try to put our best foot forward. That's where we came up with Judge Rehmeier's candidacy to submit to the Governor, and we think he's a fine candidate, and we support him fully. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you. Mr. Stilmock, welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

JERRY STILMOCK: Good morning, good morning. Thank you. My name is Jerry Stilmock, J-e-r-r-y Stilmock, S-t-i-l-m-o-c-k. I practice in front of Judge Rehmeier in the other half of my life, and I'm glad to see that he's accepted the request to serve in this capacity. The gentleman that you're going to consider is a hard-working person. You think of people that, as state employees, and the dedication that you see in a day-to-day life. This gentleman is up at it every workday. Saturday mornings even during that special time of year when he enjoys the outdoors and would prefer to be hunting of some type, he'll be at the courthouse and working hard at it. I don't know how else he's going to manage the additional responsibility with the full plate that he has. It might mean that after sitting on a four-day bench trial that he has to make a decision that we would usually have that decision out promptly in five days...it might mean we have to wait six, and that's a direct compliment because to see this gentleman in action and the

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee
February 25, 2010

way he works and the volume that he handles in the two counties that he's responsible for is truly amazing. I'm sure he'll fit the role very well to which you would be most proud of in making him as your selection. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PANKONIN: Thank you, Mr. Stilmock. Any questions? Seeing none, any additional supporters today? Are there any opponents who wish to testify? Anyone who wants to testify in a neutral position? Seeing none, we will close the hearing on the confirmation. Judge Rehmeier, we will exec on this fairly shortly, and then it'll get to the floor and so on, and over the next couple of weeks, hopefully, have this all done. Thank you. Thanks for coming. [CONFIRMATION]

RANDALL REHMEIER: Thank you very much, appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]